



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

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THE SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS HISPANIC AMERICAN HERITAGE BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES

Second of Three Meetings Features “The Hammon and the Beans” by Américo Paredes

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Public Library is proud to announce a Hispanic Heritage Month book discussion series. This year the battery began with the Piri Thomas memoir, *Down These Mean Streets* (October 14), and continues with *The Hammon and the Beans and Other Stories* (November 4) by Américo Paredes, and Cristina García’s *Dreaming In Cuban* (December 2). Professor Virginia Escalante, an English professor at San Diego City College, will lead the discussion of *The Hammon and the Beans* at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4, in the Wangenheim Room of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego.

The Hammon and the Beans by Américo Paredes documents the history of the Mexican-American literary experience in the United States. Written between 1940 and 1953, most of these 17 stories were published for the first time when the book came out. The stories deal with Mexican-American children growing up in poverty, the US Army of occupation in Japan; the myth of machismo, young boys and their first encounters with death, and the raucous adventures of wily Chicano trickster figure, Johnny Picadero. Social historian, ethnographer, and literary critic, Paredes is virtually the founder of Chicano cultural studies as an academic discipline. The award-winning movie *The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez* is based on one of his stories.

City of San Diego Public Library cardholders who would like to take advantage of this unique opportunity to read and discuss these works with a scholar and need copies of the books may pick them up in the Literature Section of the Central Library, or go online to place holds on the titles with their library account and PIN to have them sent to a San Diego Public Library branch.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library’s Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library’s catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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